

ABSTRACT

An optical link 1 from one terminal A to another B has a series of spans 2 interconnecting nodes between the terminals A, B. Dispersion compensation means 5 applies dispersion compensation to each span 2. Each span 2 contributes noise and the total noise in the link is result of the contributions from each span 2. The spans 2 may be normalised and the total noise in the link the sum of the contributions from each span. The amount of dispersion compensation applied to each span 2 by the dispersion compensation means is determined in accordance with the noise 10 contribution of that span 2.